

ENERGY STAR® Partnership Requirements for Commercial & Industrial Service and Product Providers (SPPs)

The simple choice for energy efficiency.



March 2016

Eligible Organizations

Companies providing energy efficiency services and products to commercial buildings and industrial manufacturing facilities/plants are eligible for the Service and Product Provider (SPP) partnership, but must meet certain requirements as specified below.

Types of eligible companies include: architecture, distributor, energy consultant/energy management services, energy improvement contractor, energy information services, energy services company (ESCO), engineering, equipment manufacturer, financial services, on-site energy production services, unregulated energy retailer and marketer, or other supplier of standard energy-efficient products and/or services for commercial buildings and/or industrial manufacturing facilities/plants. Applying organizations must have an established office and serve customers in the U.S. or U.S. Territories.

Organizations that work only in the residential market are not eligible for the commercial and industrial SPP partnership, but can look to [ENERGY STAR for Homes](#) for potential partnership opportunities.

SPP Partnership Application Requirements

Eligible organizations must meet certain requirements before applying to become an ENERGY STAR SPP partner. Organizations applying must demonstrate that they have actively used the ENERGY STAR approach to help clients achieve their energy management goals in the following ways:

For SPPs serving the **Existing Commercial Buildings Market**:

- Benchmark at least 10 client commercial buildings in the last 12 months using [Portfolio Manager](#)® and/or
- [Earn the ENERGY STAR](#) certification for at least one client commercial building in the last 12 months, using Portfolio Manager and meeting other program requirements.
- *During the online application process, Portfolio Manager Building ID numbers will be requested to verify benchmarked and certified buildings. (For automated benchmarking providers, these ID numbers can be located in the customer's Portfolio Manager account.)*

For SPPs serving the **Commercial Building Design Market (Architecture Firms)**:

- Submit commercial new construction projects that achieve Design to Earn the ENERGY STAR. Eligible design projects are determined by using [Target Finder](#) and require approval from EPA. The partnership agreement will be activated once these criteria are met.
- *Project information will be requested during the online application process.*

For SPPs serving the **Industrial Market**:

- Work with an ENERGY STAR Industrial partner on at least one energy efficiency project in the last 2 years and submit a [Teaming Profiles](#) to EPA outlining the project scope and resulting savings. Industrial SPPs are those companies providing a product or service that directly aids in improving the energy efficiency of their customer's plant or operations. If you are unsure of the suitability of a project for the Teaming Profile, please send an inquiry to spp@energystar.gov.
- *The Teaming Profile will be requested during the online application process.*

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Maintaining Your Visibility on the ENERGY STAR Website

Once your organization has been admitted into the SPP program as a partner, it is expected that you will maintain a minimum level of activity to be recognized on the ENERGY STAR website.

Existing Commercial Buildings SPP Partners: In order to remain listed on the [Most Active Service and Product Providers](#) page on the ENERGY STAR website, all organizations admitted as an Existing Commercial Buildings SPP partner must maintain at least 10 buildings benchmarked in Portfolio Manager in the most recent 12 month period or serve as the primary SPP in helping at least one customer commercial building to earn ENERGY STAR certification in the most recent 12 month period. Partners not maintaining this minimum level of ENERGY STAR activity will not appear on the list of Most Active Service and Product Providers, and will re-appear when minimum activity levels are met.

Commercial Building Design SPP Partners: Design project profiles will be displayed on the ENERGY STAR webpage entitled, [Architecture Firms & Design to Earn ENERGY STAR Projects](#) for up to 24 months after the Certificate of Occupancy is awarded. Design projects that are built and later earn the ENERGY STAR for superior energy performance will also be featured on the registry of ENERGY STAR Labeled Buildings and Plants.

Industrial SPP Partners: Teaming Profiles submitted by organizations admitted as industrial SPP partners will be displayed on the [Industrial Service and Product Providers](#) webpage. In order for industrial SPP partners to remain listed, Teaming Profiles outlining the project scope and resulting savings for new projects completed for ENERGY STAR Industrial partners must be submitted to EPA every 2 years.

Recommended Practices for Service and Product Providers

As an SPP in the commercial and industrial markets, the ENERGY STAR SPP partner (Partner) will work with ENERGY STAR to improve the energy performance of customer commercial building portfolios, and will assist industrial manufacturing customers in adopting a continuous improvement strategy for corporate-wide energy management. In delivering its services and/or products, when appropriate, the Partner will use ENERGY STAR tools, messages, and Guidelines for Energy Management to help customers measure their energy performance, quantify the financial value of improvements across the organization, set targets, take action, and promote their accomplishments. Partner can use ENERGY STAR to help assess and improve customer energy performance in the following ways:

- Leverage the [Service and Product Provider's Marketing Toolkit](#) to help build more profitable business relationships with energy users. This set of resources provides a framework for SPPs to use ENERGY STAR tools and marketing materials to enhance credibility and visibility, create market demand for energy services and products, and satisfy market demand by connecting with ENERGY STAR partner organizations and other energy users.

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- Use the [ENERGY STAR Guidelines for Energy Management](#) to help customers think strategically about energy performance issues, and to prioritize and execute upgrades that improve the energy performance of their existing facilities and deliver financial value across the organization. Also, incorporate the [ENERGY STAR Building Design Guidance](#) into the building design process.
- Help building owners and corporate decision makers understand the financial value of energy performance improvements using the [Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator](#), [Financial Value Calculator](#), [Building Upgrade Value Calculator](#), and value messages provided by ENERGY STAR.
- Assist customers with existing commercial buildings to measure, manage, and improve the energy performance of their facilities using EPA's ENERGY STAR measurement and tracking tool, [Portfolio Manager](#). Portfolio Manager helps calculate many metrics for evaluating the energy performance of buildings. These include the 1—100 ENERGY STAR score for select commercial building types, and energy use intensity metrics for other commercial building types that are not eligible for a score.
- Assist customers with setting energy use targets based on actual consumption data, and determine if design projects achieve the desired energy goals, by measuring estimated energy use with Portfolio Manager or with EPA's standalone online tool, [Target Finder](#). Similar to evaluating existing buildings in Portfolio Manager, Target Finder provides a 1—100 scale to set an energy target and score estimated energy consumption. EPA provides consistent metrics from building design to operations to help customers understand if the energy performance goal specified in the design was achieved.
- Use ENERGY STAR to promote and recognize customer buildings, design projects and facilities to further elevate awareness of energy efficiency. Help customers to [earn the ENERGY STAR](#) for superior energy performance of existing buildings and manufacturing facilities, or [Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR](#) for energy efficient commercial design projects.
- Participate in ENERGY STAR [communications and recognition activities](#) to showcase organizations demonstrating excellence in providing energy-efficient solutions to businesses and to create new value for customers by highlighting their accomplishments.
- Distinguish high quality projects, products, and services by developing [Success Stories](#) to publicize achievements and help increase energy efficiency practices and knowledge in the market.

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